

morally, or socially the status of the corps will be fixed for all time. Future women will accept the standard set by us now without question; if it be high they will rise to it, if it be low they will with equal facility drop to its level.

We nurses who come into the nursing service of the Navy during this first year of its existence are the pioneers, and it rests with us to make the traditions and to set the pace for those who are to follow, and so upon our shoulders rests a great responsibility. I am sure that the nursing profession of the country will extend to us its hearty good wishes for success in our undertaking.

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## THE SMALL HOSPITAL

By ELLA M. MILLER, R.N.

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THE small hospital has come in for a large share of criticism and disparagement. Some even go so far as to deny its right to existence. Unfortunately all of our patients cannot go to the city hospitals. Some are too ill to be moved, others prefer to remain at home near family and friends. It is not always possible to secure a nurse nor can every family afford one. To such people the small hospital means just as much as the large one. Even a moderately equipped operating room offers better advantages for aseptic surgery than can possibly be devised in an ordinary home.

There can be no question that many lives are saved, many gynaecological and other operations, which would otherwise be neglected, performed, many medical cases given excellent care in the small hospital. The doctors are able to do better work on account of them, in fact their advantages are the advantages of hospitals everywhere and their success is worthy of our best efforts.

To maintain a hospital of from ten to twenty-five beds, too small for a regular training school, and give good service to the sick at a moderate price, is a problem that has not been solved. Trained nurses charge too high prices and few can be found who are willing to again go through the routine of ward work after graduation. The lay nurses or partially trained nurses nearly always prove to be a disappointment, being found both incompetent and unreliable. It has been suggested that young girls be taken for training who are ineligible elsewhere.

This plan would simply provide the means for turning out more practical nurses and we are already overburdened with them.

There are many young women who, on account of lack of early education, home training, or for other reasons, may not be acceptable in a regular training school but who have the right stuff in them to make excellent nurses, given a little extra individual training and closer contact with the head nurse, such as is possible in the small hospital. Others cannot afford to take a full course of training because they must be self-supporting.

From among these, the small hospital may secure its nurses and pay them a sufficient sum for their maintenance. They should also receive instruction in elementary physiology, practical nursing, bacteriology, and dietetics; and at the completion of the course, if their work has been satisfactory, they should be recommended for entrance to a regular training school. Whether they should be allowed any time deducted from their regular course for this preliminary training would depend on their efficiency and should be determined by the school they wish to enter. This would be an incentive to good work on the part of the pupil and the head nurse, who would receive the credit of having her work recognized.

Especial care should be taken in the selection of pupils. It would be almost the exception to find the woman who does not in some period of her life take a fancy, more or less lasting, to becoming a nurse. The romance which is supposed to be attached to the work attracts a host of undesirable applicants. The grandeur of our work is appreciated by many, but the qualities necessary for its development are possessed by few.

There is no reason why the service to the sick should not be satisfactory under this plan, as one good supervising nurse, with five pupil nurses, should secure as good work as one with ten in the large hospital. The sick receive good care, the rights of the pupil are recognized, the public is not defrauded by quack nurses, and the community is provided with a hospital at moderate cost.

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"IF a woman has had the right sort of a mother, half of the work of making a nurse is done before she goes into the training school. It's a pity some of the time, thought and money expended upon automobiles, air-ships, etc., could not be used to train mothers. If the world had a hundred times as many good mothers the work for the destitute, criminal class would be largely done away with."

ISABEL McISAAC.